

I am writing to voice my **STRONG OPPOSITION** to SB 1076 - *AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF GUN VIOLENCE*.

This bill would make almost every single modern sporting rifle - and many, many handguns illegal.

I oppose this bill in it's entirety and ask that you do the same.

The lawful citizens of connecticut are not responsible for the atrocious act of one madman last year, and should not be punished for his actions.

Restricting the firearms that lawful citizens have access to does not make anyone safer. It actually makes them less safe. If criminals will continue to have access to these weapons - and we know they will - then lawful citizens should as well.

All of the firearms being proposed to be banned (by features or name) shoot the same ammunition as other, less "evil looking" firearms. Some lawmakers are trying to ban these firearms based only based on their looks. Dropping the feature list from thee down to one effectively turns just about every rifle currently owned and for sale in this state into an "assault weapon". This cannot happen.

Pistol grips do not aid in "spraying a crowd" - Some people just find them more comfortable to use.

Muzzle breaks and flash hidere do not do anything to hurt others - Again, they simply make the firearm more comfortable to shoot at the range.

Banning bayonets is just plain silly, especially since knives are readily available just about everywhere. I have never heard of a run-by bayonetting or bayonett murder.

Barrel shrouds do not "cool the barrel allowing it to shoot faster". Barrel shrouds just make it harder for someone to get a burn if they brush up against a barrel at the range.

Collapsible stocks? Banning something that allows a one to six inch reduction in the overall length of a rifle? Why? I would like one so I wouldn't have had to to buy my wife **ANOTHER** rifle. We could have shared one of them if she could adjust the rifle to fit her smaller size.

I could go on, but the main thing I would like to say is this:

All of the guns we are talking about shoot once per pull of the trigger. They are not machine guns or automatic weapons. They are the same gun your grandfather or uncle used for target practice or hunting - only the looked have changed. In many cases they actually use the same bullets. These are not weapons of mass murder. These are tools for self-defense and target practice an hunting.

Please stop treating all gun owners as if we the source of all evil in society. We are not. We are doctors, lawyers, carpenters, landscapers, clerks and customer service reps. We are shop owners, school teachers and fisherman. We are citizens.. and we have our rights, we just choose to exercise one that some others do not agree with.

I can assure that you from talking with many co-workers and acquaintences these past few months that if this bill, or others like it, become law there will likely be many legislators voted out of office in the next couple of elections. Many democrats I know - including myself - are disgusted with the "party line" of anti-gun sentiment that is running rampant in our legislature. Even though I agree with pretty much every other stance of the Democratic Party their stance on this FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT will force me, as it will others, to vote Republican if this travesty comes to pass. Please stop attempting to whittle away at the citizens of Connecticut's rights.

Nothing in this bill will affect the criminal, or prevent another tragedy from occuring. These laws will only affect the law-abiding gun owners of our state.

Thank You.

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